

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LUANDA 01647 242048Z

70

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 000576

O R 241755Z OCT 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4389

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

CINCLANT

CINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1647

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR PDEV AO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT

1. HIGH COMMISSIONER ADMIRAL CARDOSO TOLD ME ON OCTOBER 24 THAT BOTH FNLA AND UNITA HAVE AGREED TO COME TO A CONFERENCE INVOLVING THE THREE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. MPLA IS STILL BALKING, BUT CARDOSO HAS NOT LOST HOPE THAT SOME ARRANGEMENT CAN BE WORKED OUT BEFORE NOVEMBER 11 THAT WILL ALLOW THE PORTUGUESE TO TURN OVER SOVEREIGNTY, RATHER THAN HAVING TO LEAVE THE NIGHT OF THE TENTH WITHOUT ANY TRANSFER OF POWERS.

2. CARDOSO TALKED WITH MPLA PRESIDENT AGISTINHO NETO ON OCTOBER 22 AT NETO'S REQUEST, TO DISCUSS A NUMBER OF CURRENT PROBLEMS. CARDOSO PRESSED NETO TO SIT DOWN WITH FNLA AND UNITA. HE TOLD NETO THAT ALTHOUGH IT WAS NONE OF HIS BUSINESS, HE FELT AS MILITARY MAN THAT THE MPLA COULD NOT HOLD OUT ON THE WIDELY SCATTERED FRONTS ON WHICH IT WAS NOW ENGAGED. HE SAID THAT IF MPLA COULD NEUTRALIZE UNITA THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS, IT WOULD BE IN MUCH BETTER SHAPE. NETO SAID PORTUGAL HAS ITS OWN REVOLUTION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LUANDA 01647 242048Z

AND THE ADMIRAL SHOULD KNOW HOW IT IS; IF YOU HAVE TO DIE FOR YOUR

REVOLUTION, YOU DIE FOR IT. BESIDES, HE ADDED, A CONFERENCE WITH FNLA AND UNITA WOULD BE MEANINGLESS AS BOTH ORGANIZATIONS HAVE PROVED THEMSELVES INSINCERE. THE ADMIRAL TOLD ME THAT INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION MINISTER, VICTOR GRESPO, WOULD MEET WITH NETO ON OCTOBER 25.

3. CARDOSO SAID THAT MPLA LEADERS HAVE BEEN IN CONSTANT MEETINGS FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS AS THEY ATTEMPT TO COPE WITH THEIR DETERIORATING MILITARY SITUATION. HE NORMALLY MEETS EVERY DAY AT NOON WITH THE MPLA MINISTER WITHOUT PORTFOLIO, LOPO DE NASCIMENTO, BUT HAS NOT SEEN HIM FOR A FEW DAYS AND GOVERNMENT BUSINESS IS BACKLOGGED.

4. THE ADMIRAL OFFERED SOME FRIENDLY ADVICE TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IN ANGOLA, HE SAID, COULD LAST FOR THREE DAYS WITHOUT THE MPLA. IT IS THE MPLA THAT HAS THE ALLEGIANCE OF THE PROFESSIONALS, THE CIVIL SERVANTS, THE LABOR MOVEMENT, AND OTHER KEY SECTORS OF SOCIETY. FNLA HAS NO POLITICAL BASE AND NO QUALIFIED POLITICAL LEADERS. UNITA HAS A LARGER BASE, BUT IT TOO, HAS LIMITED CAPABILITIES. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, CONTINUED THE ADMIRAL, SHOULD SEEK OUT MODERATE ELEMENTS IN THE MPLA AND ATTEMPT TO WORK WITH THEM. ANGOLA CAN SURVIVE WITHOUT FNLA OR UNITA, BUT MPLA IS KEY TO LONG TERM STABILITY AND SOME MINIMUM PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

5. I TOLD THE ADMIRAL THAT IF MPLA TAKES OVER ALONE IN LUANDA ON NOVEMBER 11, THE U.S. WOULD PROBABLY BE OBLIGED TO WITHHOLD RECOGNITION. HE SAID THAT PORTUGAL WILL NOT EXTEND DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO AN MPLA GOVERNMENT. CONTINGENCY PLANS ARE FOR CARDOSO TO LEAVE BY SHIP THE NIGHT OF NOVEMBER 10. WHEN I ASKED WHY A SHIP, HE REPLIED THAT IF MATTERS ARE NOT RESOLVED BY NOVEMBER 10, THE SECURITY SITUATION WILL BE SO DELICATE THAT IT WOULD BE TOO RISKY TO GO OUT BY AIR. HE OFFERED THE OPINION THAT IF WE DID NOT CLOSE THE CONSULATE AND LEAVE BEFORE NOVEMBER 11, THE MPLA WOULD THROW US OUT. KILLORAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, NEGOTIATIONS, OVEREMPLOYMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: buchantr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975LUANDA01647
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750370-1112
From: LUANDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751020/aaaaartu.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: buchantr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUN 2003 by ElyME>; APPROVED <22 OCT 2003 by buchantr>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE ATTEMPT TO BRING ABOUT A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PDEV, AO, (CARDOSA), (NETO, AGISTINHO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006